

Letters from the People

Mrs. Lida Aten, Wellsville, Stony-Point, Ohio. I have just read your article in the Woman's National Daily for the second time and I can scarcely believe my own eyes, but I thank God and take new courage. It seems so strange to me that great men like yourself would live to your age in this sin and rum-cursed country and at the same time know exactly what ought to be done and never raise voice or pen till this late day, but better late than never, and may God grant that your tongue and pen may never stop while your life lasts and that every day you will deal such sledge hammer blows on the way the government is doing in their aiding and abetting this worst curse of our land today that they will be compelled to let go their hold on the license system and no more be a partner with brewers and distillers in destroying the best men of our country, sending them to death and destruction, and God pity us women and girls too. But talk about law breakers; this government is the biggest lawbreaker in our dear home land today. No wonder the common people have no respect for law when everybody knows that the highest officials both in state and nation are the worst lawbreakers we have. Best wishes for a long and useful life and great success. Please help to make it easy to do right and hard to do wrong.

J. T. Killam, Tower Hill, Ill.—I see in The Commoner of recent date you treat the subject of the government issuing liquor licenses in prohibition territory. I think that one of the most inconsistent things in our government and I think your arguments well taken. I hope you will push that question until it is changed. I believe now that if you had taken up the fight against the liquor business twelve years ago you would now be our president. I tell you that is getting to be the question now and the man that takes the other side or remains neutral is going to be in the background. I hope to see you come to the front in this battle for the home and good. You had better spend that fine talent that God has given you in helping to put down the greatest evil in the world. I have spent twenty years of my life in the work and find that there is nothing I feel better over. We only have so long to live and ought to spend our time in trying to make the world better. There is nothing more inspiring than the work against the liquor business. Let us hear from you hereafter; come right out in the fight and the Lord will bless and make you to do great good. Yours for good, righteous government.

MR. TAFT AND THE TARIFF

Said Mr. Taft in a speech delivered at Cincinnati shortly before his inauguration:

"Unless we act in accordance with our promise, or if we only keep the word of promise to the ear and break it to the hope, we shall be made accountable to the American people and suffer such consequences as failure to keep faith has always been visited with. It would be better to have no revision at all, unless we are going honestly and fairly to revise the tariff on the basis promised by our party."

More recently, at the Yale alumni dinner, the president declared that "if the republican party does not live up to what the people expect of it, it may be relegated to 'her majesty's opposition.'" This conscientious view of the question of party obligation doubtless does not meet the

approval of Senator Aldrich, Speaker Cannon, Mr. Payne, and others of the standpat school, but nothing is more certain than it voices the real feeling of the country.

If the republican party does not make good its 1908 campaign pledge of a genuine revision of the tariff, then the republican party is booked for certain defeat in the congressional elections of 1910. Thus far it has not made good, and now it would appear that at the eleventh hour the country must look to the president, and to him alone, to save it from the consequences of this bit of political perfidy.

The house, submitting unwillingly to the autocratic domination of the speaker and the equally autocratic leadership of Payne and Dalzell, did badly enough, but the senate has done even worse. The Payne bill is no longer the Payne bill, but the Aldrich bill, and as such it bears not the slightest resemblance to what the country had a right to expect from last year's republican platform pledges.

Now the bill has passed the senate and gone to the conference committee, where there is a slim chance of its really objectionable features being eliminated. In all probability it will be finally adopted substantially as it left Mr. Aldrich's hands, and then the whole question will be up to the president.

What will he do? Will he veto it? If his record for honesty and fidelity to the people count for anything—to say nothing of his recent utterances above quoted—he certainly can not give the measure his approval. For the plain truth is that the Payne-Aldrich bill is a downright swindle on the people.

The whole demand for tariff revision which has been so strongly voiced by the entire country in the last five years was based on the central ideal of removing or lowering the duties on certain articles now heavily taxed in the Dingley schedules, but under changed conditions no longer require such taxation. In other words, while the people still want a high tariff law, they most emphatically do want a law protecting many industries which do not deserve protection. But Mr. Payne and Senator Aldrich have proceeded on an entirely different theory. They are standpatters of the most pronounced type, and instead of drafting a law which would give relief from the onerous Dingley schedules they have produced one which would make the burden on the people even heavier.

Everybody realizes that additional revenue must be obtained, but all of it need not be had by tariff taxation. The president has pointed the way, and the country seems in agreement with his views. Even if the republican leaders in congress care for no other consideration than party welfare they would do well to accept his advice, for if the present tariff bill becomes a law there will be a storm in November, 1910, that will make some other notable political upheavals seem mild in comparison.

Meanwhile, the country will await with interest the president's action on the bill soon to be submitted to him.—Colorado Springs Gazette, republican.

WHY NOT TRY THE RIGHT WAY?

President Taft is putting up the "stall" of his life. In order to deodorize the bad smell that arises from the Payne-Aldrich bill, he suggests that congress enact a law to collect a tax from corporations on their net earnings. The dispatches in the newspapers state the president's influence is depended upon to carry the bill through congress. Taft, however, seems to be short on influence when it comes to having the tariff revised downward.—Missouri Democrat (Kansas City).

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